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"It is what we think and what we do that makes us what we are."
"As a man thinketh in his heart so is he."

JUN 1 1931

Bearded Flag Iris

[Fleur-de-Lis]

1922



A very Select List of Flag Irises Grown by

H. W. GROSCHNER

Landscape Gardener and Horticulturist

SPECIALIST GROWER OF FINE AND EXTRA FINE IRISES, PEONIES
AND HARDY CHRYSANTHEMUMS

NAPOLEON, OHIO

FLAGS FOREVER.

To All Iris Lovers,

Greetings:

Another Iris blooming season has passed and I trust that you all have had some of the same delightful surprises in the new treasures that bloomed for the first time as it was my own delight to experience. It has thrilled me to visualize that more new varieties can be recommended to give us new visions of the lustre of our starry banner so that if possible the halo that seems to surround it will tend to become more apparent and real as the years go by. I extend my sincere thanks for your kind expressions of appreciation over my attempts to make some sense out of the Iris situation by compiling a list of sorts that are worth while and eliminating the undesirable and worthless varieties. I wish also to thank you all for your generous patronage that has enabled me to make further progress in making such a selection of the Flag Flower as will help everyone to glorify our national ensign. The encouraging words of commendation received as a result of my first efforts to rate the varieties of the Iris and the many requests for a list of more of the new sorts has prompted, spurred me on and given me renewed ambition again to take up the task of "separating the wheat from the chaff." I believe that my latest effort has been so successful in making a selection of Irises so beautiful that the word "flags," "flag flower," will cause everyone to feel that no other flower would be quite so appropriate to bear the name of our national banner, that means so much to you and to me.

Now that the Blessed Peace is once more with us again it would be very appropriate as a mark of perpetual respect to our soldier dead to commemorate their deeds by planting the flag flower in the front door yard and liberally in parks, cemeteries, in school, public and Federal grounds, by the roadside and any and everywhere where anything will grow so that we may revere and honor those to whom reverence and honor is due, those who gave their lives in the service of our country here and "over there," who gave "their today for our tomorrow." And we cannot honor them more beautifully in enshrining and hallowing their memory than by associating their lives with the beautiful.

To them we owe our freedom, for us their love was sublime, for "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for a friend." It has been said of them almost as a benediction that "their's was a work of conscience, and conscience is the voice of God speaking in a human soul."

Yours for the flag flower, faithfully,

H. W. GROSCHNER.

Sept. 1st.



THE IRIS.

(Written for California Cultivator by Mrs. J. J. Dean.)

The Iris is becoming more popular every year. The formation is most interesting, the fragrance of most varieties delightful and the soft restful colors of so many are a delight to the eye, or is it the soul, for as one writer in describing the natural beauties of a certain location remarked: "There are those who see all this wonderful display from year to year and yet it has no apparent attraction to them. Clearly it is not the eye but the soul that sees."

Probably not one who has attempted to interest the public in the Iris in a commercial way but has often met with a rebuff in one way or another. "Flags are so common—they grow wild back East where I lived." Offer some large gorgeous flower and it will appeal to those people. We have often thought when we have heard someone speak almost disdainfully of "Flags," that the common name should have an added charm, and we were delighted recently when reading the description of the blue flag by that student and lover of nature, Gene Stratton Porter. After describing the wonderful formation of the flower, she says: "Nature is very frank, and these marvels are spread closely over her face for any one who cares to learn. I think those who understand and really appreciate these delicate processes among the flowers never again doubt that there is a Supreme Being. The Creator said: 'And a bow shall be set in the cloud; and I will look upon it that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.'" So he evolved the rainbow. On the painted lily faces the botanists of early Greece saw reproduced these wonderful colors, and so they named the plant 'Iris', the rainbow.

"Because the sky is blue, eternal and neverchanging men have adopted this color to express friendship, which also should be eternal and never changing. True blue is dear to all hearts and conveys an express meaning; so again these wonderful flowers are baptized with truth. And as if no honor might be lacking to the blue is added 'flag'. Never was other flowers more highly honored in its naming. Sometimes beautiful plants and vines are insulted by scientists applying to them careless, contradictory, and incongruous terms. Here is one embarrassed by riches both in its scientific and common name. Think what his flag symbolizes to a man! It means so much that for it he severs the dearest ties of earth, leaves a home of comfort and faces untold hardships, exposes his body to sickness, wounds, and many forms of death. For it he sacrifices everything else on earth, Yielding with smiling lips life itself.

"So when the slender, exquisite leaves of the Iris waved on the free winds of the marsh with the abandon and grace of the flag, some one caught the resemblance, and to the symbol of eternal truth was added that of liberty, and the rainbow lily became the blue flag, the true flag."

THE IRIS (RAINBOW FLOWER).

A FLOWER OF TRADITION, ROMANCE AND SONG.

(Blue Flags.)

"O memories dear, that linger near,
The meadow, brook and wildwood,
And blue flags sweet that made complete,
The sunny days of childhood."

Almost from the dawn of history and down through the ages until the present day the beauty of the genus *Iris* has been so powerful that it has made an indelible impression upon history, art and literature of all time. So much sentiment has been dedicated to this beautiful subject that it has been called the flower of song, convincing evidence that the *Iris* is the most beloved flower of all ages.

All signs point to the rainbow flower as markedly a gift of the Creator of the Universe to humanity to give hope and cheer and bring peace and good will upon a troubled earth.

As a climax to the romance that invests the *Iris* it is assumed by some that it is possibly the lily of the field. This does seem quite plausible.

The weight of opinion of those best qualified to judge probably favors the *Iris* and thus one more mystery of the good book has possibly been solved. The present popularity of the *Iris* had to come and coming at this time when the Holy Land has been restored to its rightful owners it is as it were the fulfillment of a prophecy. It seems most fitting that the exquisite charms of the mystery flower of all ages, which inspired the most beautiful poem of all time—"Consider the Lilies," should now be revealed and its beauty literally enshrined.

THE MODERN BEARDED FLAG IRIS.

Beautiful as the older *Irises* were, and some still are beautiful, the modern varieties supply the demand of modern educated man for the extraordinary and almost miraculously beautiful. One who has not kept up with the procession and planted the newer varieties from year to year, can have no conception of the marvelously beautiful sorts of recent introduction. So many new shades can now be had in the Flag *Iris* that this species alone could be called the Rainbow Flower—the purest whites, darkest purples graduating down to beautiful sky blue shades and lavenders, the brightest golden yellows, reddish purples that suggest a red *Iris*, gay combinations of yellow and maroon, and so many pinkish shades that one must have a number of them to be satisfied. Surely the *Iris* has come into its own and when the newer varieties become better known the Flag Flower will receive the recognition that it is justly entitled to.

WHY THE IRIS IS NOT MORE POPULAR.

Considering the fact that the Iris "possesses more quantities of merit than any other outdoor plant" it is not nearly as well known as it should be. It is true that one sees it more than occasionally and the very thing that one does see is itself the reason that it is not more popular; common poor and worthless varieties are always in evidence. Such things do not get people enthused over the Iris. The majority of people do not have the opportunity to see Iris shows or really fine collections. So they have to rely upon making a selection from a catalogue with long, distracting and indiscriminate lists of varieties. They are more likely to select more unsatisfactory things than the fine sorts for the reason that quite a number of the novelties are lauded to the skies or are described so cleverly that people are deceived and lured into the belief that they are getting something extraordinary. In great hopes an order is sent in and their vision of beauty is turned to disappointment when the plants bloom. Their enthusiasm for the Iris ebbs and becomes luke warm to the extent that no more plants are ever bought. These same undesirable Irises are seen by others and they in turn do not become Iris enthusiasts. People will not and cannot be "fooled all the time. *Will this fact ever dawn upon the minds of some dealers, filter in and sink deep into their heads that it is an impediment in the way of popularizing the Iris to keep on foisting off on the public, varieties that are hideous in color, or washed out, varieties that are of only an imaginary difference in spite of the hair splitting distinctions that are made to attempt to create new and supposedly beautiful and distinct sorts? Such unscrupulous efforts are made to palm off on a confiding public such rank trash that it is nothing less than a "skin game." I realize that nearly all originators do not comprehend that they are perpetrating a fraud on the innocent public; but in some cases it is a fraud and that is a bare-faced fact.*

A MEMORIAL DAY SUGGESTION.

When Memorial Day comes we shall all be wishing for flowers to express our cherished memories of the dead. Why not forestall this wish, planting now something to deck the graves where our loved ones sleep? The one Decoration Day flower for northern latitudes is the Iris. Named for the goddess of the rainbow, its bloom, with ethereal rainbow colors, delicate and evanescent as the tints of the morning, is in strong contrast with the hardy dependable characteristics of the plant itself. What bloom is more appropriate than this delicate, light and airy orchid of the garden to point the way beyond the vale to the land where our loved ones dwell?

"Planted in any well-drained and reasonable fertile soil, the Iris will thrive and increase from year to year, even under neglect if need be, and yield its tribute of bloom at a time when everyone is thinking of the message which flowers alone seem able to convey."

HOW TO MAKE THE IRIS MORE POPULAR.

Most growers will agree that long and bewildering lists of irises should be reduced. Half hearted attempts are indeed being made by some to discard "junk" varieties. This is good as far as it goes; but it does not go near far enough. Unless the discarding game is accelerated by getting rid of commonplace irises by the wholesale the movement will not catch up with itself for the reason that new varieties are being introduced faster than some are eliminated. One should not be caught napping. The thing to do is to wake up and resolve to make a sacrifice for the good of the iris, get rid of many varieties every year and keep up to date by adding new ones. For it is the new things that people want and demand and if the quality is high enough such a lasting impression will be made that beauty will express, demonstrate and assert its power to such an extent that many sales will be made. As an illustration of this force I cite my methods of popularizing irises.

My own collections which consist of carefully selected and very distinct varieties, is so beautiful that visitors often exclaim that every variety seems more beautiful than the other. For that reason in every locality where I sell a collection of irises they excite the entire neighborhood, and of course that means more orders. To sell really beautiful irises will do more to increase the flower's popularity than any other method that can be devised. What I have done and am doing any grower and dealer can do and all who would see the iris attain the popularity that it deserves are invited to give my plan a trial. If it were generally adopted the iris would be given a higher place of honor in many gardens of the land and the first thought of new home owners when their thoughts turned gardenward, would not be of roses but of IRISES.

WHAT IS A BEAUTIFUL IRIS?

During all the years that I have been testing Irises, it has been my practice to eliminate quite a number of varieties every year so that more time could be devoted to a more careful study of the more worthy sorts. This concentration of effort has resulted in a constantly rising standard and ideal of beauty, so that I have some very decided conclusions as to what qualities an Iris bloom should have to be really beautiful. It must be beautiful in itself and not have to be associated with other species of flowers to pass it by. My ideal is a variety with a good clear color, allowing of course for varieties in which the contrasting colors are distinct and pleasing. In my estimation too much variegation mars the beauty of some varieties. This applies especially to the bronze and maroon shades, the smoky and clouded horrors, the weird, lurid and somber shades in the squalens group and to some of the shot colors. Because a variety is distinct or very distinct is no proof that it is beautiful. Some of the very distinct are a miserable conglomeration or conflagration of colors, bizarre, like crazy quilts, mere freaks or curiosities. I throw them away.

HIT OR MISS METHODS OF SELECTING IRISES.

I cannot agree with the statement of a well known Iris lover that "all Irises are beautiful," and "that the selection of varieties of the Iris is largely a matter of individual taste." In support of his assertions he quotes some delightful rhyming and jingling of words to prove his contentions. I will not admit that either statement will hold good. I will disagree violently by saying that all Irises are not beautiful and that the selection of varieties depends upon the state of advancement everyone is in, in acquiring taste, discernment, discrimination and judgment.

"Blue flags, yellow flags, flags all freckled
Which will you take? yellow, blue, speckled,
Take which you will—speckled, blue, yellow—
Each in its way has not a fellow."

This is truly a delightful skit. But it is too suggestive of a happy-go-lucky spirit. A mood that a Miss would likely be in when wanting a fellow but, at such a probable age, fellows come and go and as a rule they are not captured to hold forever, but left to skidoo when a better one appears upon the scene.

Now an undesirable Iris cannot be compelled to vacate or get rid of itself by not recognizing it, but will keep right on growing and increasing whether you notice it or not. I believe that discriminating buyers would prefer to start with fine varieties of Irises, so their gardens will not be cluttered up with mediocre things. Willing to spend money wisely for the new varieties that are really fine and extra fine so that after they have increased to an extent that they have a host of plants, the quality of the flowers will still be so fine that they will never seem common but every year, when your Irises bloom, your garden will be a fairyland of delight.

Therefore, please let me be your guide through the maze of the Iris world, honestly point out the really beautiful varieties that will remind you of "Old Glory" and save you time and money.

A CRITICAL SELECTION OF BEARDED FLAG IRISES.

The intermediate Bearded Irises are supposed to bloom before the early varieties; but it has been my experience that they come into bloom only a few days before and bloom along with them. So for all practical purposes they could be classed with the earlies. The number of intermediates that would grace a fine collection are so few that there are hardly any worth taking account of. The following sorts can be relied upon as being extra choice and fine and cannot be spared from a representative fine collection. Zua (Crawford) extra fine. Dortha is an aquisition, it charms all who see it. Helge, supplies a long felt want of a yellow among the early sorts.

WHITE IRISES.

The peace-making whites are needed to harmonize the many color combinations among Irises. Florentina Alba is about the best of the early whites. Of the late whites, White Knight is the finest. La Niede is such a close rival that both sorts should be owned to settle this point. Fairy is so well named that one must have it. On account of weak stems and long length of stems it should never be planted near the walk or near the edge of beds but placed back more than two feet. Innocenza is fine and should be in larger collections to help keep the louder colors from quarreling.

THE LAVENDER AND SKY BLUE SHADES.

Princess Beatrice still holds its own as one of the finest. When the bloom of Crusader is opened in the house the coloration is wonderful. Queen Caterina and Mlle. Schwartz are two of the finest in existence. Lord of June is certainly one of the very finest; it has a failing of weak standards that do not last long in the sun, but such choice blooms are for the house. Glory of Hillegom cannot compare with any of the above but is better than a very good light lavender and should be selected if the expensive sorts cannot be afforded. Glory of Hillegom is similar to Celeste.

MEDIUM BLUE AND LAVENDER.

Firmament I consider the finest early blue Iris. Amas is a brilliant bluish purple with very large flower. Oriflame is almost identical in color. The flower is enormous; almost too large. Chester Hunt is so distinct and fine that it cannot be spared. Lewis Trowbridge is a medium blue that comes close to extra fine. Massasoit approaches the darker shades in coloring, and on account of its distinct fine color and form it is hard to get away from. *Violacea Grandiflora*, called the best true blue, holds its own with any of similar shade, except the most expensive varieties.

DARK PURPLE AND DARK BLUE COLORS.

Madam Gaudichau is an early extra fine rich violet purple. Miranda is an early self colored purple that has come to stay, extra fine and an acquisition. The following description rings true: "Grand early form, with stout stems, bearing flowers of fine form, of clear violet blue with orange beard. A really distinctive and striking variety. Blue Jay is well named and comes so close to extra fine that it cannot be spared. Rembrandt is so close to fine or extra fine that one must have it. Petit Vitry looks promising.

PINK IRISES.

Pink has been called the love color and the addition of pinkish shades to the wide color range of the Iris will insure its popularity for all time.

"WATCH YOUR STEP."

It is easy, once one is next and willing to be led and guided by one who understands the art. Just so in selecting flowers, if the pleasure of their company would be enjoyed to the utmost. Undesirable Irises are not so easy to get rid of, for once they are established, they have a way of hanging around until they are taken in hand and thrown out to make their disposition a good riddance. Why be annoyed at all by such undesirable things? Why not be careful in selecting a guide who understands his business, then it will be very easy to go step by step in building up an Iris collection. Buyers must be careful in selecting from some Iris catalogues or they might get something undesirable, for some so-called pinks among Irises have little excuse for being, and some show traces of pink only under certain degrees of sunlight and shade. There are no early pink Irises worth while.

SOME REALLY FINE PINK IRISES.

It has been well said that May Queen is the nearest to a clear rose pink Iris. Windham is close to being the nearest darker pink medium length stems and rather weak growth are its failings. Isoline is a darker pink close to extra fine, when the bloom is opened in the house the color is lighter and at this stage one of the finest in existence. Queen Alexandra could be classed with the darker pinks, it is good, or fine to extra fine according to the season. Dream is well named and at least one of the very finest light pinks in existence. I like Kathleen better than a number of others, there is more lavender than pink in the color. During rainy weather the color is at least fine. Lohengrin has more lavender than pink and close to extra fine. Wyomissing has been severely criticized; it is at least fair in wet weather; its color comes close to fine. Her Majesty belongs in the odd class.

FRILLED IRISES.

The frilled Irises have a great charm for those who like the dainty and really artistic flowers. I have divided them into the darker and lighter shades which is the common sense way. At least one of each shade should be in every collection. Madam Cherau is the finest of the darker shades. Aletha and Parisiana have a frilling color that is similar when both are at their best. Aletha is fine to extra fine and Parisiana is odd but Aletha is not. When these two rivals are not at their best they are both odd fellows. Of the lighter frilled sorts I deem Anna Farr the very finest Iris in existence, barring none, but it is so subject to disease that unless there are a number of plants, the chance of getting a bloom is uncertain indeed. Ma Mie is next and very close in quality and a sure bloomer. Pocahontas would be my next selection, it is quite distinct from the two named. Leda (fine variety) is the best variety that I know that has a frilling color that is a pronounced pink. It is dainty and charming.

RED IRISES.

There are no really red Irises, but there are quite a number of very distinct reddish purple shades that suggest a red Iris. Without these colors your Iris collection will lack some of the finest colors. Kochii is the finest early with a reddish cast; it is so distinct that it is striking and should never be omitted from the finest collection. There is no excuse for listing Purple King, Crimson King, American Black Prince, Atropurpurea, Midnight, Spectabilis and Nepalensis; most of these sorts are either identical or outclassed by Kochii. Lent A. Williamson probably belongs in the red class.

Edward Mitchell is the finest red. It is an even break whether Caprice or Madam Picquette is the better moderate priced. Caprice in cool weather is a rather dull color, and Mad Picquette needs good soil and moisture to show its merits; its white throat gives it distinction. Pauline in cool weather is good to fine. Archeveque has medium sized flowers. Some seasons its color is red purple and other seasons a true purple. Rubella is good for massing.

THE AMOENA IRISES.

Will delight those who like the gay and striking, yet dainty flowers. Their expression and attitude is one of cheer, gladness and mirth as if to say "leave me with a smile," which might be the reason that some persons select these sorts in preference to all others. Rhine Nixie is the best for general planting. Victorine is especially dainty and charming and comes close to being a weak grower but to see it is to want it. On account of slender stems and the bloom being of good substance it is just the Iris for corsage wear. (Buy it by the dozen, ladies, I will guarantee that people will take notice if you wear this Iris). Ann Leslie is a new color in this class that I think is very beautiful.

THE VARIEGATES.

In this section the standards are shades of light and golden yellow and some a brassy yellow and the falls are of maroon and reddish brown colors. Some miserable colors in Irises are found in this class, for some of the colors are not clear but cloudy or shot with other colors. On account of the poor colors, some persons who have not seen the finer sorts do not care for the bronze or maroon and brown varieties. I suggest that you rely upon my selection to give satisfaction. Some of the gayest and most striking Irises are found in this class. A selection in the order named would not be far out of the way. King of Iris, Princess Victoria Louise, Loreley, W. J. Fryer, Mithres, Ossian and Miss E. Eardly.

YELLOW IRISES.

Yellow is a color that is needed among Irises to give variety and contrast. Aurea is still one of the best darker or nearly golden yellows. The color of Sherwin Wright is the brightest and finest of the golden yellows, in spite of its rather small flowers everyone wants it. Shekina is the very finest of the light or creamy yellows and is in a class by itself. Flaves-cens is a very good light or cream yellow and should be in all collections to give more variety. Dawn appeals to everyone on account of its charming color of sulphur yellow.

THE SQUALENS VARIETIES.

Some distressing and outlandish colors are found among these sorts and caution must be used indeed in making selections. Some of the smoky things are nothing less than horrors, excuse the word, but I must tell the truth. Rely upon my selections and you will not get evil things, but some are pearls among swine. Quaker Lady, Col. Candelot and Prosper Laugier are three of the finest not mentioned elsewhere.

THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH.

My criticism and praise of varieties is continued in this booklet.

HAVE FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN ME.

Lack of time forbids my describing all the Irises in my master Lists as I would like to describe them. I have labored and studied to make up a selection of such refinement that you would not be taking a chance and make a mistake if every one was ordered. Take my word for it, that they are worthy of being called flags. Plant Irises with a lavish hand. Surely the favored flower of the ages deserves such recognition that it should be planted in quantities. A dozen varieties hardly make a start. Conjure up in your mind a collection of twenty-five or more of the very finest and then you will see some of the glories of the rainbow flower and you may think, as others have thought, that it is a messenger with a mission and your thoughts will atune with that of the poet:

“Oh flower of song, bloom on and make forever
The world more fair and sweet.”

“For blossoms can tell things. The Iris will give you flowers for the funeral, tropics for the festa, symbols for every great experience of this our life. One might choose them so, defy science and classify them for a christening, a wedding, and a silver wedding, a sorrow or a joy. Some may deck our banners and some our graves.”—Eden Philpotts in the “Times.”
June 18, 1917.

CRITICISM.

I like to know that my efforts are approved and criticism would not hurt my feelings. If we do not agree I might endeavor to win you over to my side and take you into camp. Such a little revolution that I am engineering in the Iris business will surely bring a reaction and I am ready for it.

PLEASE KEEP ON.

It is indeed gratifying to be informed by my customers that they are getting rid of many poor Irises. I know of one estate that made such a cleaning up that I hardly thought it possible. This was where I saw Firmament in all its Glory.

THE OLD TIMERS.

Some of the old residents among Irises still belong in the finest collections for the reason that they are the utmost for their color or season. They have made Iris history and must be reckoned with for some years to come. Anyone who is qualified to judge will not dispute the quality and value of the following old timers— Florentina Alba, Kochii and Madam Cherau. Some of the following are not so old, but anyone who really knows Irises will score up the most of these sorts. Major, May Queen, Victorine, Ossian and Viola cea Grandiflora.

MY RATING AND QUALIFYING LISTS

My master list is in a class by itself and should not for a minute be compared with another so called in order to palm off undesirable high priced Irises. Every variety in this collection is there for a good reason, no matter if some are moderate in price. The fancy priced sorts are in this class because they are worth the money and not because I have them for sale. My little master list contains a few sorts that belong with the masters, but to make my master list so invincible (if this is possible) that it cannot be criticised. I would advise adding the most of the little masters to the finest collection.

Probably over half of the varieties in my good list belong in the finest collection on account of their distinctness; they cannot be rated much higher on account of a failing of medium size flowers, medium length stem or the color is not fine enough, but at that the color of some is the utmost in distinctness so far and cannot be omitted from a representative collection. Some of the bargain sorts are a "pig in a poke" with these and the odd sorts you will have to take your own chances.

STICK TO MY MASTER LISTS.

I realize that my readers are perplexed as to which Irises to buy in spite of my efforts to guide them to the right varieties. To all whose funds for flowers are limited and who have to count their pennies, I would say, "stick to my master lists", they were made for your protection. Even if you should like some of the others at first, eventually your standard will rise higher and higher and you will get tired of them, so that it will be a waste of money to buy them. If you have the money to spare, how much more sensible it would be to buy more of the varieties of unquestioned beauty, or to purchase larger size so that you will sooner get more bloom and more plants. Only to all who "live on easy street" and to whom money is no object, I would say, take a chance on all varieties, derive the satisfaction of knowing what they are and then please get rid of them.

EARLY BEARDED FLAG IRISES.

The early varieties in this list come into bloom about the second week in May and are usually over by Memorial Day, except in late season, or if they are shaded. The number of early Irises that are distinct and beautiful is so limited that any representative collection should have at least all of these varieties. If there are any that you are not familiar with I suggest that they be given a trial. A delightful surprise awaits you. You will agree with me that they are a welcome addition to the too limited number of early Flag Irises. Every variety listed is distinct and fine.

(S. means standard or upper petals; F. means falls, or lower petals.)

EARLY TO MIDSEASON IRISES.

S. means upper petals; F. means lower petals.)

83 Zua—Frosted lavender; extra choice; short stemmed.

85 Dorothea—S. and F. robins egg blue blending into heliotrope; extra fine.

87 Florentina Alba—The finest early white; large flowers.

75 Helge—Lemon yellow; golden yellow in the center of the falls giving the effect of a golden yellow early Iris.

87 Kochii—S. and F. rich claret purple; extra fine.

Firmament—S. bright violet blue; S. royl violet purple, paler toward edge, bright orang beard; the finest early Iris.

86 Miranda—Self colored violet blue; extra choice.

90 Mad Gaudichau—Very dark violet purple, very rich color, extra fine.

85 Lent A. Williamson—S. campanula violet; F. same shade which soon turns to a purple crimson; fine.

80 Amas—S. rich blue; F. violet; a handsome giant from Asia Minor.

83 Orriflamme—Almost idenical in color with the above, but the flower is gigantic in size; fine.

MY UNASSAILABLE MASTER LIST.

96 Anna Farr—S. white daintily frilled light blue; F. porcelain white, with a few lavender markings at the base and around the edges; large flower of wonderful chaste and glorious perfection.

85 Afterglow—A soft grayish lavender or buff gray according to weather conditions. Its clean golden throat gives it charm.

85 Ann Leslie—S. white flushed pink; F. bright raspberry red.

85 Col. Candelot—S. copper; F. dark ochre red, a fine new squalens variety.

86 Chester Hunt—S. deep sky blue, F. Marine blue, a beautiful and distinct shade.

89 Dream—The finest light pink Iris.

85 Edouard Mitchell—The best red Iris.

87 Fairy—Well named; general color effect is white—get enough.

90 Isoline—One of the finest pinkish Irises and among the finest in existence. If this was a new variety ten dollars would not touch it—buy a large root.

87 La Nieve—One of the finest pure white Irises and very distinct from all other; flowers of good substance, medium length stems.

86 Lohengrin—Lavender with a little pink in it; large flower, fine.

90 Lord of June—S. lavender; F. violet blue, one of the very finest.

93 Mlle Schwartz—Lavender suffused pink; one of the very finest.

86 Madam Cherau—S. and F. pure white frilled blue; one of the most beautiful. If this old timer was a new variety it would sell at a stiff price—get enough.

86 Monsignor—S. violet blue; F. velvety purple, veined darker purple,

88 Ma Mie—A much whiter Madam Chereau; chaste and extra choice.

95 Princess Beatrice—Large flowers of beautiful sky blue; buy enough of this extra-choice sort.

85 Prosper Laugier—S. bronze flushed red; F. velvety ruby-purple; if this was a new one five dollars would not buy it—buy enough.

87 Quaker Lady—S. tawny lavender with yellow shading; F. ageratum-blue with a golden suffusion; a quaint yet beautiful coloration that appeals to many people. The ladies love it—buy a half dozen.

93 Queen Caterina—Pale lavender with a pinkish suffusion; one of the very finest.

88 Rhine Nixie—S. white; F. rich violet purple; well named, Nymph of the Rhine—get enough of this extra-choice and jaunty sort.

88 Shekina—The finest light yellow.

88 White Knight—The finest white Iris; even the beard is white.

86 Swatara—S. lobelia blue; F. bright violet, conspicuous yellow beard.

85 King of Iris—S. brassy yellow; F. maroon with wide border of yellow; very good variety. This sort is well named and generally considered the best of this color.

GOOD LIST.

- 80 Aletha—S. and F. white with dark wide lavender border; if the season is cool and wet this variety is really fine.
- 81 Glory of Hillegom—Bright light lavender; fine.
- 80 Princess Victoria Louise—S. sulphur yellow; F. rich plum, bordered cream.
- 80 Windham—A refined Her Majesty; medium length stem.
- 78 Caprice—A popular reddish purple Iris.
- 79 Madam Picquette—This reddish purple Iris is distinct from Caprice and a more beautiful color when it comes good.
- 80 Ossian—(The best variety.) S. straw yellow; F. crimson lake; fine.
- 75 Kathleen—Pinkish lavender; charming when it comes good.
- Petite Vitry—A good purple; not rated yet.

LITTLE MASTER LIST.

- 81 Archeveque—Reddish or true purple according to weather conditions; fine color.
- 81 Aurea—Bright chrome yellow; one of the best yellows.
- 86 Blue Jay—S. bright, clear blue; F. intense, dark blue; one of the finest blues. As beautiful as the bird whose name it bears—buy a flock of Blue Jays.
- 80 Dawn—Sulphur yellow—charming variety.
- 86 Massasoit—S. and F. a very distinct shade of metallic Venetian blue. Take my word for it that this sort is fine.
- 83 Mauvine—Fine distinct shade of mauve lavender.
- 85 Opera—Dark reddish lilac; brilliant color, medium length stems.
- 86 May Queen—One of the finest darker pinks. This old timer more than holds its own with some of the new fancy priced sorts.
- 80 Queen Alexandra—Dark lilac pink with a golden suffusion; really fine some seasons.
- 84 Flavescens—Pale yellow or cream color; fine.
- 80 Sherwin Wright—The finest golden yellow; flowers small, but everyone wants it.
- 85 W. J. Freyer—S. bronze; F. maroon, similar to Hector, but flowers are nearly twice as large; fine.
- Lewis Trowbridge—Fine light blue; F. Shaded rose, distinct and beautiful.
- 85 Trojana Celestial—Celestial blue; fine.
- 80 Rembrandt—Royal blue; fine.
- Victorine—S. white flecked purple; F. brilliant violet purple; flecked purple.
- 86 Violacea Grandiflora—S. and F. fine violet called the best true blue; an old timer that must be reckoned with.
- 85 Innocenza—Fine waxy white.
- 85 Leda—(Fine variety) S. and F. white with a frilling color of pink; fine.

BARGAINS.

"To the prudent, noble housewife the sky is never so blue, the songs of the birds never so sweet as when opportunity to buy for less comes knocking at her door. We can almost feel the human heart beats of sympathy and thankfulness for the prized bargains listed below."

Well said. The housewife is wise also, and is wary of the department store "ads" that would coax her to buy imaginary bargains and wrest from her a portion of the family funds which she guards so faithfully. The prudent housewife knows that one must be judicial in picking up bargains that are real bargains at rummage sales. The same rule holds true with these Iris bargains. "It is dollars to doughnuts" that the natural curiosity of womankind will be aroused and the irresistible instinct to pick up bargains greatly quickened.

The prices are so insignificant that feminine hearts will "pitter patter" until some of these are purchased but after they bloom there might not be so much pittering and pattering.

Armenien, Albert, Victor, Blue Boy, Cordelia, Miss E. Eardly, Rose Unique, Virginia Moore, Hector, Triestram, L' Avenir, Rubella, Paxatawney, Taffeta, Khedive.

ODD IRISES.

Just as soon as the odd Irises are classed as such, just that soon will a great step forward have been taken in grouping these where they belong. A few sorts in this list will pass as beautiful; a few more are so odd that they are interesting, and others will eventually become tiresome. The varieties towards the end of the list are the least desirable.

75 Her Majesty—S. rose pink; F. light crimson, wide veins of dark crimson.

80 Loreley—S. light yellow; F. ultramarine-blue, bordered cream, gay and striking variety. After the flower is a day old the falls become streaked, giving it an odd appearance.

75 Eldorado. 75 Alcazar. 75 Minnehaha. 75 Toreador. 75 Demi-Deul. 75 Mary Garden. 70 Mercutio. 70 Gloriette. 70 Khamsin. 65 Leda (Farr).

IRIS GROUCHES.

A curious new factor has appeared in the Iris situation. Some persons have become grouched up over imaginary failings of my Iris catalogue; the fault was their own because they forgot what my list plainly states that Glory of D' Hillegom is similar to Celeste. I strongly insist that when people get crabby over their own mistakes that they grouch at themselves and not at me.

CHEAP SKATES.

Some of the most penuris persons I have to deal with are growers. They, above all, should understand plainly my system of grading, but they groan and try to buy clumps for the price of single divisions. But notwithstanding some cheap skates, every year I have stocked some Iris growers and after their plants have been received they write a letter of appreciation of the service given, and liberality in filling their orders.

WHEN TO PLANT IRISES.

I cannot agree with those who think mid-summer is the only time to plant Irises. No early planting will make up for an undersized rhizome; its the larger size root that will be the most certain to bloom the first season. My advice would be to order at once before the best roots are sold. To wait until spring might be another disappointment, and by that time some sorts will all be sold out. Every year I continue to plant Irises until freezing weather because I did not have time to plant before, or forgot to order or did not have my mind made up to buy earlier. To plant now will certainly be a gain over next season, for the plants will be that far ahead.

CLUMPS.

No intelligent grower will approve planting clumps, but will advise dividing them. If a clump effect is wanted, single divisions can be planted quite close together and thinned out every year. My largest size roots will not divide until the following year. If economy is an object buy a half dozen or more each of the first or second size roots at dozen rates.

CULTURAL INSTRUCTIONS.

My cultural instructions for Irises, planting and future care is so far ahead of all others that they are in a class by themselves. To keep them so they will be revised again, and ready by the middle of October. Price 25c All who purchased these cultural instructions last year are entitled to the revised rules for a two cent stamp. This offer also applies to all who purchased Irises in the years gone by. Cultural instructions are free with all orders.

DEPLORABLE MIXTURE OF IRISES.

There is probably no other plant that has been so often sent out untrue to name as the Iris. So general and widespread is this unfortunate condition that is a discouragement to their culture. I believe that it has been my lot to experience more than my share of this disappointment and I am determined that no cloud will hover over my business on account of having sent out a spurious variety if human endeavor can prevent it. Quite a number of my customers have entrusted their orders to me on account of not getting true stock elsewhere. They had bought of growers who made loud claims for the trueness of their varieties and were supposed to supply such. This is a tip for beginners in Iris culture to buy their plants of one whose hobby and ambition is to supply plants that are true and is willing to devote to his business the personal attention which is absolutely necessary to insure accuracy.

EXPLANATION OF SIZES.

The buying of Iris roots is often a rather unsatisfactory transaction for the reason that you never know the real grade of stock that you will receive. To quote prices on "single roots, strong plants" is meaningless unless such grades are defined. A single root that is large enough (that has the age so that it is matured) is better than many clumps that are sent out, for the reason that in some of these clumps not a single tuber is of blooming size. So all your efforts to obtain some bloom the first year are lost. To make matters clear my roots are graded and each size explained so you will know just what kind of a root you will get.

SIZE OF ROOTS.

1st—Medium sized division; about a fourth of this grade will bloom.

2nd—This grade is a larger division; about half will bloom.

3rd—Medium size Mother rhizome. This is a transplanted division with two or more baby Irises or offsets, that should bloom the first year; but some will miss blooming. When a quantity is wanted this is the best size to buy; one is more certain to get bloom the first year out of more than one and the lower price makes this size more economical.

4th—Mother and Daughter Roots. I think everyone will agree that this size root is in a category all her own. It is the utmost in size that an Iris rhizome can grow to and the surest to bloom, therefore the best to buy. This size increases the most rapidly on account of having daughters of all ages, grown up, medium and babies, at least a half dozen and often more that will keep up a succession of bloom year after year.

I am in the same boat with all growers, in that of some varieties, the stock on hand of blooming size roots is limited; first orders received are first served. If it should happen that any variety cannot be supplied in blooming size, I will give two or more to make up the difference. If this arrangement is not satisfactory, please advise when ordering and I will refund the difference in price as cheerfully as your order was received.

NEW AND SCARCE IRISES.

Like all other new plants sent out are not as large as the older or standard varieties, as a general rule they will run a size smaller. The fourth size of a fancy priced sort will be about as large as a third size variety.

The third will be second.

The second first.

And the first will be smaller than a first size older variety.

EXPLANATORY.

The question might be asked "of what use would it be to buy the larger sizes if they are not sure to bloom the first year?" The answer would be this, the larger the size, the more certainly they will bloom; if any of them should not bloom, you will still be the gainer, because the larger sizes increase much more rapidly and after you have a quantity of plants there will be a quantity of bloom.

GUARANTEE.

My varieties of the Iris are guaranteed to be true to name. I believe that my stock is 100% pure. The planting, digging and preparation of my plants for sale is never entrusted to my employees. But with all this extreme care I am not infallible and if a mistake should occur and you should get an untrue variety, it will be replaced with a large root, not one of a PUNY size.

IRIS COLLECTIONS.

To the buyer, to purchase a collection of Irises at bargain rates for a stated sum is seldom SATISFACTORY, for various reasons. You already have some of them or some of the varieties are UNDESIRABLE, so the apparent saving is not real, but only IMAGINERY. Think how easy it would be for me to make up bargain collections and include some of the varieties that I offer at bargain prices or those that I am trying to get rid of. My prices for collections would be lower than the lowest. If a bargain collection is wanted it is an easy matter to make up an assortment from my various lists with the added attraction of your getting varieties that you are especially interested in. Always thinking of some ideas to keep my catalogue in the lead, I believe that my plan of giving customers a discount when plants are bought in quantity and allowing them to SELECT extras is the best method that has yet been devised.

GRATIS PLANTS.

The custom of giving plants gratis is a happy thought that finds favor with most dealers and it is good as far as it goes. But often it does not go very far, for the reason that you are liable to receive a variety that you already HAVE, do not want or what the donor wants to get RID of. Thus the joy of getting something for nothing is turned to dismay or even chagrin if you have to wait for a year or two before the plant blooms. If this is the case the thing to do would be to go right into your garden and throw out these worthless things "bag and baggage" and then to buy of one who is trying to make the gratis custom WORTH WHILE.

GRATIS OFFER.

On orders amounting to \$2.00 and up purchasers may select plants to the value of five cents for every dollar remitted. Customers must name a list for me to select from. If the five cents for each dollar does not amount to enough to permit putting into the list varieties of a certain price the customer may remit enough to make up the difference. This offer is additional to the cash discount, but it does not apply to varieties that cost \$3.00 and upwards and bargain varieties.

SERIOUS IRIS DISEASES.

Formerly free from disease, now a serious disease, the iris is now menaced by root rot. My opinion is confirmed by another grower who says: "The skeleton is the closet of the Iris grower in the disease known as root rot." It goes without saying that it is of the utmost importance to buy Irises that are not infected and here is where personal attention to all orders counts. Not all employees' eyes are trained to discover failings in Iris roots and some do not care.

WHY MY IRIS ROOTS SEEM SMALL.

I have yet to receive a complaint concerning the size of my largest size Iris roots sent out. Often there comes a letter praising the same. A few complaints have been received regarding the SUPPOSED small size of my first size roots. When the DISCOUNT and GRATIS offer are considered my prices are very low indeed. My Iris catalogue plainly and clearly specifies the sizes of the different grades. Thus the complaints are not justified. One reason why my roots seem small is that they are INTELLIGENTLY prepared for planting, i. e., the surplus foliage, roots and spent rhizome are cut off and removed. To leave all this useless stuff on the plant is mere camouflage to make them appear larger than they really are. DO NOT FORGET THIS. Also do not forget that some Irises do not grow large rhizomes, La Niede and Gloriette have very small rhizomes, Victorine Windham, Kathleen, Dream, Sherwin Wright, B. Y. Morrison, Miss E. Eardly, Rose Unique, Ossian, Zua, have very small to small rhizomes. Isoline, Quaker Lady, Archeveque, Wyomissing, Virginia Moore, Blue Boy, Minnehaha and Dawn have small to medium size roots. Consequently the FIRST size roots of these may seem extremely small, but nevertheless, I wish to assure all that the SUPPOSED small size is value received for the variety, and you will have a pleasant surprise when some of these supposed small roots bloom the first season. My roots are graded to meet the competition of growers who cut prices way under the regular price and then give a smaller root to fit this low price, but you will not find this out until your roots are received. I far prefer to come right out into the open and tell the truth before you buy, so my business principles will be above board. Some dealers continue to charge the long price on first and second size roots after their stock of normal size roots is exhausted, they try to make excuses by saying that the size given was the best they had left, but the thought of refunding part of your money never enters their greedy, grasping craniums.

A REAL SAVING.

If my discounts do not seem to amount to much, remember that you are getting a reduction on varieties of your own selection. Thus the saving is actual and real.

HOW MANY IRISES TO BUY.

Remember that my Iris catalogue is a true and real guide, there are no others just like it. So thoughtful of your own best interests that provision has been made for your every need. And no doubtful or experimental varieties are listed at enormous prices and described in a deceiving way to lure you on to buy them and let you take the chance of wasting your money and getting stung. Why not buy from my list to our hearts content, knowing that your money will not be frittered away. Get enough colors of the rainbow flower, go your limit and then some in building up an Iris collection. Other things can be purchased later if need be, but Irises, one of your best loves, you must have much of and they cannot wait, they are needed soon and now.

USES OF THE IRIS.—CUT FLOWERS.

It has been well said that the one Decoration Day flower for northern latitudes is the Iris. Take the whole country over there must be some species of it in bloom. While there is some doubt regarding its appropriateness to call the Iris the national flower, there certainly cannot be any objection to its being adopted as the official flower for that particular day. No bloom is more beautiful, no plant more hardy. And with the flowers coming in all the colors of the rainbow, every taste can be gratified, except the taste of those who crave bright red or scarlet colors for this occasion. By having the early and late varieties one is sure to have flowers in the garden for the 30th of May, no matter in what part of the country one may live.

Despite all the opposition of some florists, it is slowly but surely beginning to dawn upon the public that Iris blooms are worth while for decorative purposes and they are being used in increasing quantities for entertainments of all kinds, banquets, socials, weddings, etc. And of course one should not forget their mission of cheer and inspiration which flowers always bring to the sick and aged. The Iris is also handled easily by the grower of cut flowers, for it opens perfectly in water. One needs to wait only until the buds are large. In the house the tints are more delicate even than when the blossoms are allowed to develop in the garden.

It would be a difficult matter to decide which is the finest flower for gardens in summer time, but surely the claims of the summer-growing Irises would make them rank high in any list, whilst it would be difficult to name any plant that produces such gorgeous flowers with less care and attention from the grower. The summer Irises have an old-world charm, for they were favorites with our forbears, and they seem always to be found in the beds and borders of old-time establishments where the gardens seem as though they owe less to design than to a happy association of beautiful plants with the natural amenities of woodland and water.

—The Gardeners' Chronicle.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Broad tho the claims were that I made for my Iris catalogue, I think that they have been more than fulfilled. Only an experienced catalogue reader and buyer can appreciate the great reform that has been accomplished and will continue. Others are adopting some of my ideas, some readily and willingly, others grudgingly and some because they will have to, lasting reforms come slowly. Truth must not be allowed to be crushed to earth and The Unvarnished Truth will continue to smite untruth where my Iris catalogue has left off.

To assist in appreciation of the truths that it has been my endeavor to expound and make plain and clear for some of my readers that have not given the Iris much study and have not had experience in buying (and these I wish to help), I will call attention to great reforms that I inaugurated several years ago.

1st Giving plain, candid and truthful descriptions of varieties of flowers, their failings and shortcomings as well as their beauty and value.

2nd. Listing varieties by qualifying lists so that you can see at a glance what you will get and not take a chance when selecting from lists where the inferior, good and fine varieties are listed together.

3rd. Separating the early and late varieties which saves study and time.

4th. The listing of the odd sorts by themselves where they belong.

5th. The grading of rhizomes into sizes so that a grower cannot give you small roots, charge the same price as larger sizes and attempt to excuse such grasping greed by stating that these were the best that could be supplied.

6th. Compelling the removal of the camouflage from Iris rhizomes before they are shipped out so that it can be perceived just what size root you are getting.

7th. The rating of varieties by the grower himself so that if he overrates a variety to sell it, he can be "pinned down" and held to account.

Broad claims indeed and granting that they are true, am I not justified in making more claims by stating that

My ideal is higher,
Higher and ever higher,
I do not believe that any grower
Will ever catch up with me.

Some of my customers perceive this and they pass my Iris catalogue on to others to help the movement along. If only half of my claims have been proven don't you think that one who has got out a catalogue from the viewpoint of the "ultimate consumer" can be trusted to fill your orders for Irises.

"Man has availed himself of the great laws of evolution in mightier matters than the Iris; but in no theatre of his unsleeping efforts has he created purer beauty or wakened for flower lovers a truer joy than among the bearded Iris of June."—Eden Philpotts in *Country Life*, June 24, 1917.

DISCOUNTS.

Orders amounting to \$5.00 deduct 3c for every dollar remitted.
Orders amounting to over \$10.00 deduct 5c for every dollar remitted.
Orders amounting to over \$15.00 deduct 7c for every dollar remitted.
Orders amounting to over \$20.00 deduct 8c for every dollar remitted.
Discounts do not apply to dozen rates nor to varieties \$3.00 and upwards.

QUANTITY PRICES.

Varieties at 15c—\$1.50 per doz.
Varieties at 25c—\$2.50 per doz.
Varieties at 35c—\$3.00 per doz.
Varieties at 50c—\$5.00 per doz.
6 at doz. rates.

ACCOMODATION ORDERS.

Small orders for Irises are accepted only under the following terms:
Orders less than \$1.00, remit 15c extra.
Orders less than \$1.50, remit 10c extra.

INSURANCE.

Safe arrival of plants are not guaranteed unless insured, which must be paid by the buyer. Charges 5c. Orders over twelve dollars insured free.

CARRIAGE.

At price each they are shipped prepaid. Orders for only moderate priced or first size roots from a long distance off should remit 10c extra for every dollar, this includes Canada. At dozen rates anywhere remit extra at the rate of 15c a doz.

PRICES.

I make no pretense of competing in prices with the average grower who does not give his business nearly the amount of personal and intelligent attention that I do. If my prices seem higher than some others, remember that my plants are absolutely true to name and free from diseases, and that I devote to all others the personal attention which spells satisfaction. Value is given for value received. I hope that none of my catalogues are wasted by getting into the hands of some whose only thought is how cheap they can buy and whose minds are so obsessed by mere cheapness that they are closed to the thought of quality and intelligent service.

BUSINESS TERMS.

Cash with order, except people who are known to me. No account opened for less than \$10.00.

The best way is to send cash with order and get the advantage of the discount. I want to assure all that I give just as good value and you will not be taking a chance when you pay in advance for goods purchased from me.

CORRESPONDENCE.

I give personal and prompt attention to all inquiries regarding the culture and merits of all plants. All inquiries intelligently answered.

Address all orders to

H. W. GROSCHNER, Napoleon, Ohio.

PLEASE.

Write plainly, please, particularly your name and address.



Dear Old Bleeding Heart

"Possessing the grace of a fern with the flowering qualities of a good perennial" this charming old-fashioned plant always will appeal and be loved for its beauty and associations and memories of bygone years. Always a favorite with the "kiddies" who give their own name to it, "red heart". If there were no other reason for possessing this sweet thing it should be procured for the children so that love for the beautiful and for growing things be instilled in the mind at a time when it is more receptive.

Divisions 50c, Strong divisions \$1.00, Clumps \$1.50.

When bought separate, postage 15c, 20c and 25c extra.

Prices
Divisions 50c
Strong Divisions 1.00
Clumps 1.50